

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 356
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to designate a certain segment of State Route 61 in Anderson County as the "James E. 'Buzz' Elkins Memorial Highway".

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways to honor those exemplary citizens who, during their lifetimes, worked assiduously and with purpose to build a brighter future for their fellow citizens and their children; and

WHEREAS, James E. "Buzz" Elkins of Clinton was most assuredly one such meritorious public servant, who served as a voice of probity, integrity and compassion, both as a member of this Body and as a vital force in his community; and

WHEREAS, Senator Elkins was an eighteen-year veteran of the General Assembly, having served ten years in the House of Representatives and eight years in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure in the legislature, he supported numerous pieces of legislation to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, he strongly supported and sponsored legislation to strengthen laws against drunk driving, establish the vehicular homicide law, revise the state's penal code, improve the state's educational system, and provide additional support and aid for the mentally ill and the handicapped; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Senator Elkins was the eloquent and knowledgeable sponsor of Governor Alexander's Better School Program, that led to the largest increase in funding for

education in the state's history; and Governor Alexander credited him personally with the passage of this landmark legislation; and

WHEREAS, Senator Elkins earned the universal respect and admiration of his peers on Capitol Hill for his innate ability to work with his opponents, rather than against them; and

WHEREAS, Senator Elkins served with acumen and alacrity on almost every major committee of the House and Senate, including Finance, Ways and Means, Education, Judiciary, Transportation, Conservation and Environment, and State and Local Government; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who exuded positive attitude and who worked assiduously for the betterment of his district, Senator Elkins was the instrumental force behind obtaining state funding for improvements to Frost Bottom Road and Highway 61 between Norris and Oak Ridge and the construction of the present Highway 61 between Clinton and Norris, a major Anderson County thoroughfare in an area of potential growth; and

WHEREAS, his positive outlook and his unwavering belief in the potential of Anderson County was contagious, and his optimism and diligence has inspired numerous other citizens to excel in their professional and civic lives; and

WHEREAS, he further evidenced his ongoing concern and commitment to his community as a member and chairman of the board of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce and campaign chairman of the Anderson County United Way Fund; and

WHEREAS, most recently, he had consolidated efforts to erect a permanent campus for Roane State Community College in Anderson County; and

WHEREAS, because Senator Elkins played such a prominent role in making the construction of State Route 61 in Anderson County a reality, it is only appropriate that a certain segment of such route should bear his august name; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the segment of State Route 61 in Anderson County from the corporate limits of the City of

Oak Ridge northward to the corporate limits of the City of Clinton is hereby designated as the "James E. 'Buzz' Elkins Memorial Highway", as a testament to his indelible legacy of proficient public service, his professional excellence, his stalwart protection and preservation of the public trust and his inspirational commitment to the welfare of his fellow citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such segment of State Route 61 in Anderson County as the "James E. 'Buzz' Elkins Memorial Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.

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